I don't know why our Left friends, who are such great champions of employees, are keeping absolutely mum on this. Therefore, Sir, I am demanding that the Government make a statement, in this House, about the real state of affairs with regard to the rate of interest applicable for the last three years on the Employees', Provident Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any response from the Government?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : सभापति महोदय, यह मामला श्रम विभाग और वित्त विभाग से संबंधित है। आदरणीय सदस्य ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, इसकी जानकारी से मैं उनको अवगत करा दूंगा।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी : सभापति महोदय, ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति : अब आप क्यों बोल रहे हैं? Let the Government Speak ... (**व्यवधान**)... आप छोड़िए, छोड़िए । श्रीमती जया बच्चन।

Termination of services of a physically challenged scientist by the IIT Delhi

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Utter Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to first congratulate the Minister for Human Resource Development. He is on his way out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Arjun Singhji, please come. Take your seat to receive her congratulations.

श्री सभापति: आप बोलिए, आप बोलिए। वह सुन लेंगे।

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, Budgetary allocation for the physically challenged for the current year has remained unutilised. They have, thus, not received the attention they deserve. Added to this is a report that IIT, Delhi, terminated the services of a physically challenged scientist. He was afflicted with polio since childhood. One could understand the agony he must have gone through to realised his dreams, burdened with disability and poverty. The scientist, a Ph.D. from the same IIT was selected by UGC as a Research Scientist in 1990, and as Scientist 'B' in 1996. His services were terminated in 2000, after three years of promotion by a Review Committee stating that he was apparently in depression due to which he was not fit to work further. The same institute has all along been

appreciating his services. The Annual Reports bear testimony to this. He was not allowed to work and denied salary for the last four years. The Institute went a step further and deprived him of medical facilities too. All this happens to upcoming scientists, as a result of which often they commit suicide. In the case of this scientist, his only fault was that he requested the Institute to shift his laboratory downstairs from the first floor as he was not able to climb upstairs. There are no ramps in the institute, Sir, the pathetic and heart-rending story of this scientist speaks for itself. May I request the hon. Minister to look urgently into this matter with all seriousness it deserves?

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

- THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, I am aware of this case and I am trying my level best to see that justice is done.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA' in the Chair]

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand for reducing profit of margin on drugs

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, on the one hand, in spite of various measures undertaken by the National Pharamaceutical Pricing Authority, the prices of even life-saving drugs are not coming down, leave alone essential drugs. On the other hand, in the advent of new patent regime, from 1.1.2005, prices of various drugs are bound to go up. Apart from this, if one looks at retail margins that drug manufacturing companies are giving to its distributors, it is shocking. This is adding fuel to the fire in spiralling the prices of some of the essential drugs. For example, margins for some drugs such as Nimesulide, Omeprazol and Cetrizine are 1000 per cent.

This is the finding of a study conducted by the Government of India. We are saying 'Health for AH' will soon become a reality and is not a distant dream, but, at the same time, drug companies, on whom there is a little control, are giving 1000 per cent margin, thereby, directly increasing the drug prices in market. I understand a Committee had also been constituted